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PATENT ATTY. DOCKET NO.: P71138US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Ralph LANGE et al.

Confirmation No.: 3187

Serial No.: 10/577,657

Filed: May 1, 2006

For: LASER SCANNING MICROSCOPE WITH A NON-DESCANNED DETECTION AND/OR

OBSERVATION BEAM PATH

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.